



Naracoorte Lucindale Council

Better by Nature

*Representation Review Report
(second public consultation)*

May 2017



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1. About Naracoorte Lucindale

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council, established in 1998, encompasses an area of 452,013 hectares and a population of 8,390 residents. The district is located in the centre of the Limestone Coast approximately 300 kilometres from Adelaide and 450 kilometres from Melbourne.

Naracoorte is the location for Council's principal office and the main service centre for the Council district. The district also contains the smaller communities of Lucindale, Hynam, Kybybolite and Frances.

Other local communities in the district are Keppoch, The Gap, Cadgee, Binnun, Lochaber, Wild Dog Valley, Stewart Range, Hynam, Mount Light, Laurie Park, Moyhall, Koppamurra, Bool Lagoon, Struan, Joanna, Wrattobully, Spence, Woolumbool, Avenue Range, Coles, Conmurra and Fox.

The Council area contains prime agriculture land characterised by reliable rainfall and accessible underground water. The district is home to a thriving and vibrant rural economy and is central to some of Australia's most famous wine producing areas.

The district is home to the World Heritage Listed Naracoorte Caves, the Bool Lagoon Game Reserve and Hacks Lagoon Conservation Park which are Ramsar Wetlands of International Significance and the South East Field Days, the largest event held in the Limestone Coast.

Council's vision for the community is:

"The best place in regional South Australia to live, work, do business, raise a family and retire. Created by having a Prosperous Community with Healthy Landscapes, Liveable Neighbourhoods and a focus on Harmony and Culture."

Council's vision as an organisation is to be known for:

"Progressive Leadership with strong community connections, efficiently managing our shared assets, services and natural resources."

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council was created by bringing together the District Council of Naracoorte, the Corporation of Naracoorte and the District Council of Lucindale.

2. Introduction

This is the second report prepared as part of the Representation Review Council must conduct at least once in every eight years in accordance with Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act).

This paper provides a:

- summary of the strategy for the first public consultation
- schedule of written submissions received and a summary of survey responses received during the public consultation period
- analysis of each submission and council's response to any issues raised
- description of all proposals considered in the review process
- a clear description of council's endorsed option and the reasons behind decision not to adopt other options discussed in the review
- summary how the proposal relates to the principles under section 26(1)(c) and the matters referred to in section 33 of the Act

At the direction of the Electoral Commission SA, Council must conduct its review between October 2016 and October 2017. The previous Representation Review was undertaken in 2008-2009 and resulted in no changes to Council's composition or structure, retaining the structure that was implemented in 2000 which is a Mayor and 10 Councillors, who are all elected from the whole community. The Council also appoints a Deputy Mayor, usually for a two year term.

The Council area is not divided into wards - therefore each Councillor is elected at large and represents the interests of the whole Council area.

The purpose of a Representation Review is to determine whether Council and its Community would benefit from an alteration to Council's composition or structure. The review gives the Council and the community the opportunity to examine the present composition and structure and provides the opportunity to plan and implement changes that will better reflect the future requirements of the community.

The key issues examined and the options considered in the representation options paper were:

- Council being represented by a Mayor or a Chairperson
- Council being represented by Area Councillors, Ward Councillors or a combination of both
- If the Council should be divided into no wards, two wards or three wards
- How many Council Members should represent the Community

A detailed analysis of the above is available in the Representation Review Options Paper.

Following deliberation of all matters relevant to the review, including the public submissions received, Council resolved at its meeting on 26 April 2017 to the following in principle structure:

- retain an elected mayor as the principal member of Council
- the number of Elected Members remains at 11 (including the Mayor)
- retain the existing "no wards" structure

3. Community participation

The review involves the following stages:

1. representation review options paper (completed, refer to Council's website for a copy)
2. first public consultation (completed, feedback received is outlined below)
3. representation review report (this paper)
4. second public consultation
5. final review report
6. certification

3.1. Options Paper (completed)

The **Options Paper** explored options for changes to Council's representative structure and provided an explanation of the effect of any change in structure or composition on the existing arrangements.

3.2. First Public Consultation (completed)

The Community was invited to be involved and have input into the representation review from 12 January 2017 until 5.30pm 3 March 2017.

3.3. Representation Review Report and Second Public Consultation (this paper)

At the conclusion of the first consultation this **Representation Review Report** has been prepared that takes into consideration responses to the Options Report and sets out Council's proposal for the future composition and structure of the Council.

A copy of the Representation Review Report is available for inspection and / or purchase at Council's Naracoorte and Lucindale offices and on Council's website at <http://yoursay.naracoortelucindale.sa.gov.au>

3.4. Second Public Consultation

The Community is invited to be involved and have input into the representation review. You can have a say and make submissions on this Paper from 4 May 2017 until 9.00am 29 May 2017, as follows:

- Provide a written submission to Council addressed to:

Representation Review
Naracoorte Lucindale Council
PO Box 555
Naracoorte SA 5271

or delivered to the Naracoorte Council office, DeGaris Place, Naracoorte or emailed to council@nlc.sa.gov.au

- download a Response Form at <http://yoursay.naracoortelucindale.sa.gov.au> or collect a response form at Council's Naracoorte and Lucindale offices
- complete a survey online at <http://yoursay.naracoortelucindale.sa.gov.au>

A public hearing will be held on 13 June 2017 at 7.30pm at DeGaris Place, Naracoorte to give people the opportunity to be heard by Council in relation to their submission or to present to Council.

How you can have your say will be included in the local newspaper, Council website and Facebook page and Government Gazette.

3.5. Final Decision

Council will consider the addresses to Council and submissions received in response to the second public consultation; finalise its decision; and prepare a report for presentation to the Electoral Commissioner.

3.6. Certification

The final stage of the review involves certification of the Council proposal by the Electoral Commissioner and gazettal of any amendments to Council's composition and/or ward structure.

Any changes to Council's composition and/or ward structure as a consequence of the review may come into effect at the next Local Government election (scheduled for November 2018).

4. First Public Consultation and Submissions Received

The Representation Review Options Paper was released for public consultation from 12 January 2017 until 5.30pm 3 March 2017. The consultation invited people to complete either a paper or online survey or provide a written response.

4.1. First Consultation Advertising and Promotion

Information relating to the first consultation was available on Council's Your Say website and from Council offices. As required by the Local Government Act the consultation was advertised in the Naracoorte Herald on 12 January and Gazetted on 5 January.

Media Release

A media release was distributed to 9 media outlets on 11 January 2017. There was a story on the Representation Review Options in the Naracoorte Herald on 19 January and on the Naracoorte Herald's Facebook page on 11 January.

The following comments were posted on the Naracoorte Herald's Facebook page:

- “change over to a French type of system, get rid of the CEO and reduce the number of councillors for the size of the area”
- “One mayor or councillor and it should be me haha”

Advertisements in the Naracoorte Herald

Date	Topic
12 January	A review to determine whether a change of arrangements is required in respect to elector representation is being undertaken by Council.
2 February	Currently Council is led by a Mayor elected by the community. Should the principal member of Council be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council from within the elected members? This is one of the questions Council is asking the community as part of a review into its Representation Structure.
16 February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should the principal member of Council be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council from within the elected members? 2. How many councillors (including the Mayor) are required to provide fair and adequate representation to the electors within the Naracoorte Lucindale Council? 3. Should Council retain its current structure or reinstate wards? 4.

Posts were put on Council’s Facebook as follows:

Date	Topic	Viewed by
12 January	<p>Is eleven Councillors the right number of Councillors to manage the affairs of the Naracoorte Lucindale Council and to provide fair and adequate representation to the electors?</p> <p>This is one of the questions Council is asking the community as part of a review into its Representation Structure.</p>	<p>615 2 shares No comments</p>
27 January	<p>The Naracoorte Lucindale Council is currently lead by a Mayor elected by the community. Should the principal member of Council be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council from within the elected members? This is one of the questions Council is asking the community as part of a review into its Representation Structure.</p>	<p>555 No comments</p>

1 February	<p>Currently Councillors are elected at large by all electors and represent the Council area as a whole. This representation arrangement has been in operation since the 2000 Local Government elections. Prior to this the Council area was divided into two areas known as wards, where councillors were elected by the electors of the particular ward, as a representative of that ward (ie a ward councillor). Should Council retain its current structure or reinstate wards?</p> <p>This is one of the questions the Naracoorte Lucindale Council is asking the community as part of a review into its Representation Structure.</p>	<p>600 1 share No comments</p>
17 February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should the principal member of Council be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council from within the elected members? 2. How many councillors (including the Mayor) are required to provide fair and adequate representation to the electors within the Naracoorte Lucindale Council? 3. Should Council retain its current structure or reinstate wards? <p>These are the questions Council is asking the community as part of a review into its Representation Structure.</p>	<p>396 No comments</p>

Following each Facebook post there was a spike in views of the consultation webpage as shown in the graph below.

On the Your Say website there was:

Aware visitors (An aware visitor, has made one single visit to the page.)	28
Informed visitors (An informed visitor has taken the 'next step' from being aware and clicked on something.)	47
Visits	149
Downloads of the Representation Reviews Option paper	16
Downloads of the response form	10

An email was sent to 195 Your Say subscribers on 9 February 2017 inviting them to be involved in the first consultation. This correlates to the spike in views of the consultation webpage as shown in the graph below.

Visitors Summary

Your Say Naracoorte Lucindale from 09 Jan'17 to 04 Mar'17



4.2. First Consultation Feedback Received

Surveys completed online (on Your Say)	19
Papers surveys completed	3
Total number of surveys completed	22
Written responses received	1
Total responses received	23

To allow the responses to be efficiently and consistently analysed the survey responses from the 3 paper surveys were entered into the Your Say website. The additional comments from the paper surveys and the one written submissions are listed below.

4.3. Survey questions and responses (Refer to Attachment 1 for a copy of the survey)

The survey asked three questions. The questions and responses are outlined below.

4.3.1. Principal Member

Question

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council's principal currently is a Mayor elected by the community. Should the principal member of Council be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council from within the elected members?

Response

	Support for a Mayor elected by the community	Support for a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council from within the elected members
% of survey respondents	71.4%	28.6%
Number of survey respondents	15	6
% of written respondents	100%	0
Number of written respondents	1	0
Total %	72.7%	27.3%
Total number	16	6

4.3.2. Number of Councillors

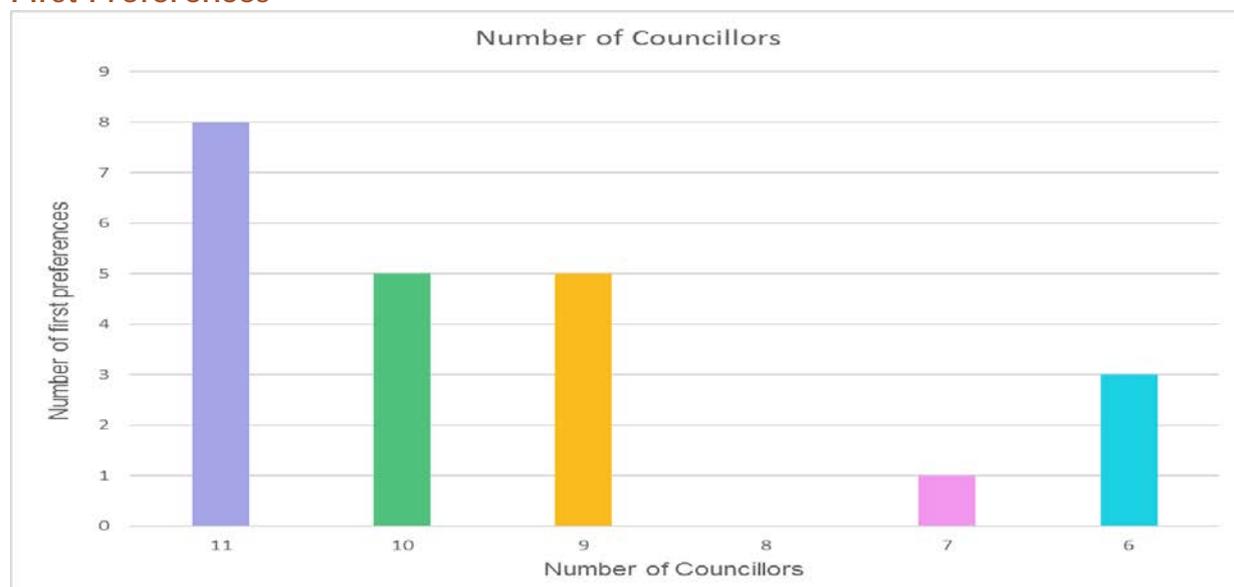
Question

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council currently has a total of 11 councillors (including the Mayor). How many councillors (including the Mayor) are required to provide fair and adequate representation to the electors within the Naracoorte Lucindale Council?

Survey takers were asked to rank from 1 to 6 the number of elected members they preferred between 11 to 6 elected members - 1 was their most preferred number and 6 was their least preferred option.

The graph below shows the first preferences for each number of elected members.

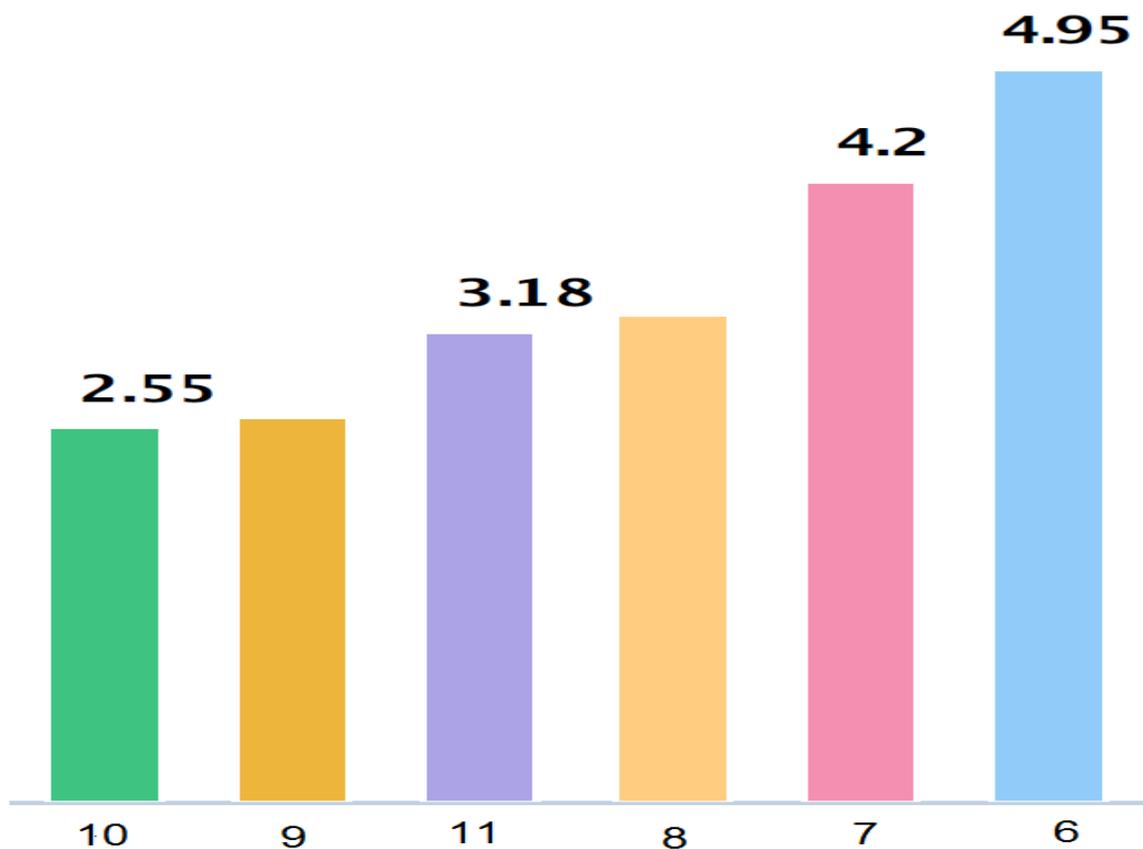
First Preferences



Number of Elected Members proposed	Number of first preferences received	% of first preferences received
11	9 (8 surveys plus 1 written response)	39.1%
10	5	21.7%
9	5	21.7%
6	3	13.0%
7	1	4.3%
8	0	0%
Total	23	

Ranked Response

In the graph below, the number that is provided is the average ranking. The lower the value, the more preferred this option is.



Number of Elected Members proposed	Average Ranking Order
10	1
9	2
11	3
8	4
7	5
6	6

The table below is a comparison of the number of first preferences received and the rank:

Number of Elected Members proposed	Number of first preferences received	% of first preferences received	Rank
10	5	21.7%	1
9	5	21.7%	2
11	9	39.1%	3
8	0	0%	4
7	1	4.3%	5
6	3	13.0%	6

4.3.3. Wards or Whole Council Area (no wards)

Question

Currently, the Councillors are elected at large by all electors and represent the Council area as a whole. This representation arrangement has been in operation since the 2000 Local Government elections. Prior to this the Council area was divided into two areas known as wards, where councillors were elected by the electors of the particular ward, as a representative of that ward (ie a ward councillor). Should Council retain its current structure or reinstate wards?

Response

	Support for retaining the current structure	Support to reinstate wards
% of survey respondents	66.7%	33.3%
Number of survey respondents	14	7
% of written respondents	100%	0

Number of written respondents	1	0
% of total respondents	68.2%	31.8%
Number of total respondents	15	7

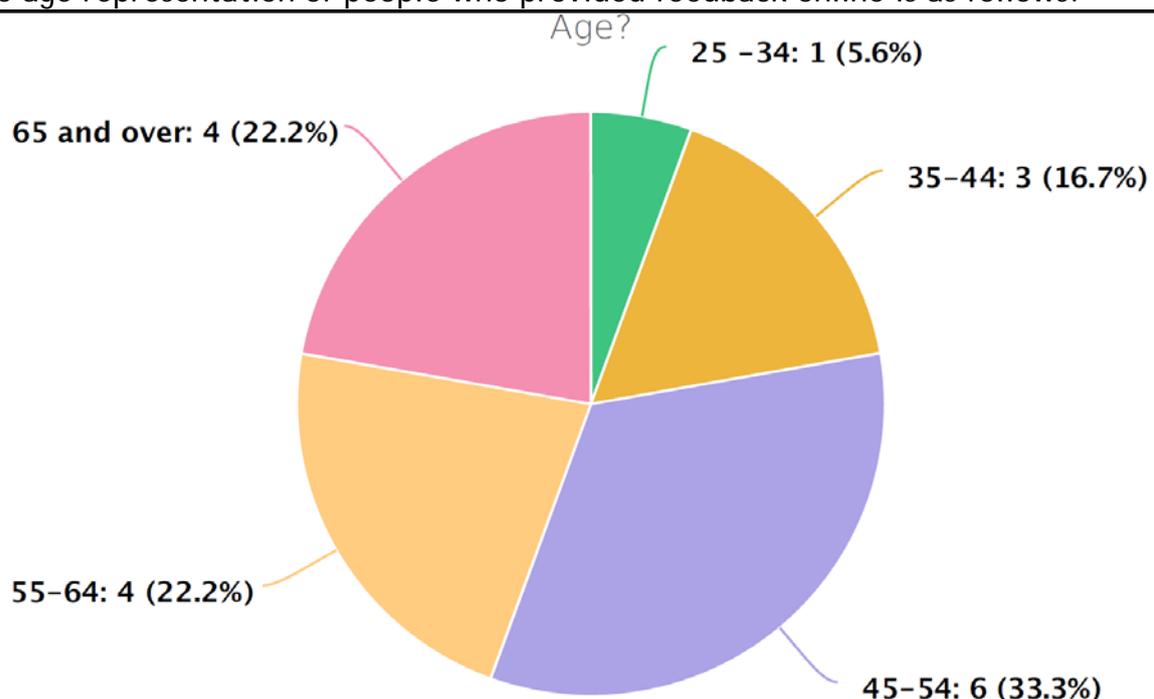
Comments and Written Submission

Comments on paper surveys (note that the comments on the surveys are captured in the responses to the survey questions)	1	<p><i>"Under the current system where a mayor is elected by the community, any other standing for elction are lost to Council,</i></p> <p><i>This would be:</i></p> <p><i>1: a considerable loss to council and</i></p> <p><i>2: a deterrent to councilors to offer themselves for election as mayor</i></p> <p><i>I wish to see a return to the ward system because I feel it is too much to expect all councilors to be aware of all the needs of the large council area. Therefore, if the ward system was returned the residents would be better represented by their local councilors.</i></p> <p><i>I do not recollect Council being divided into two wards."</i></p>
	2	<p><i>"I would suggest the town and district be divided into five wards, perhaps two from the Township area and three from the huge country area.</i></p> <p><i>The system of Wards worked very well when one was the District Council and the other, Naracoorte Council."</i></p>
	3	<p><i>"I submit the following idea of councils format and function . If a chairperson expresses any opinion in a debate ,then that chairperson is NOT an impartial or independent Chair. That is incongruous. There fore; Because the Mayor is the council and community leader and spokesperson of council, the mayor should have a full involvement in any debate ,as well as full and equal voting rights as any other councillor. This then follows that the Mayor should NOT be the chairperson in a council debate .Once the Mayor /chairperson expresses any opinion within a debate ,the chair is not then impartial . It then follows that the chairperson should be an independent and impartial person as a professional Chairperson should be ,and not a position held by the Mayor . This Canario restores the Mayor to the rightful position as leader of all the decision making process ,free of the burden and responsibility of needing to be seen as impartial and can then have a</i></p>

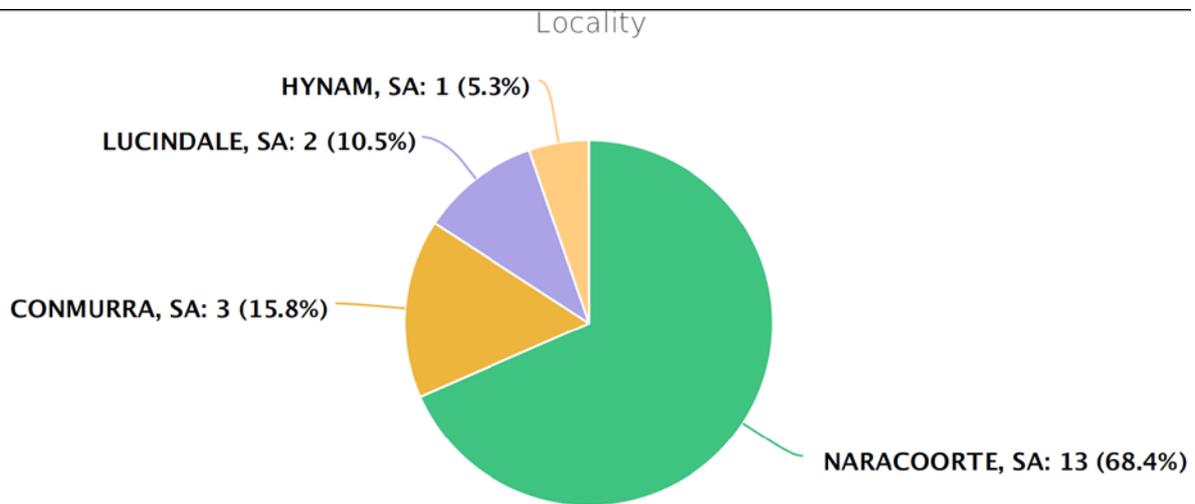
	<p><i>full impact on the direction of council as the Mayor should appropriately have, and not be left out of that debate and voting process .</i></p> <p><i>Wards /current structure . The down side of a ward structure as I see it is that the most forceful and effective debater would give a distinct advantage to the ward they represent .Therefore I favour the present structure.”</i></p>
Written respondent	<p>1</p> <p><i>“The area encompassed by the NLC is large by SA Council standards and it is therefore desirable to have enough Councillors to correctly represent the views and concerns of all residents. Council debate is enhanced when views are expressed from a good number of Councillors.</i></p> <p><i>The cost to Council for Councillors is relatively minor when considering total costs and a proposal to reduce the number of Councillors by one or two would be insignificant cost-wise.</i></p> <p><i>On principle, I favour a Ward structure but a single ward has been working well in the case of the NLC and I therefore support the retention of the current structure.</i></p> <p><i>In summary I support:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Retaining 10 Councillors plus a Mayor elected at large.</i> <i>2. Retaining a single ward (or more correctly, no wards) for the NLC.”</i>

Demographics

The age representation of people who provided feedback online is as follows:



As shown in the chart below the representation of the percentage of people who responded from Naracoorte (68.4%) versus the outlying areas is consistent with the population for the Naracoorte area which is 72% of the total population for the district (refer to page 19 of the Representation Review Options Paper).



4.4. Analysis of and response to the submissions

4.4.1. Principal Member

In respect to the question *“Should the principal member of Council be a mayor elected by the community or a chairperson chosen by the elected members of Council from within the elected members”* Council notes the following:

- of the respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of the principal member 16 people or 72.7% supported retaining a Mayor elected by the community
- the principal member of Council has been a mayor who is elected by the community (elected at large) since the Naracoorte Lucindale Council was formed in 1998 and has operated effectively during this time
- a mayor elected by the community allows all voters the opportunity to actively exercise a democratic influence over the selection of the Principal Member
- a Mayor provides Council with an identifiable principal member who is directly accountable to the community and as the Principal Member is elected for the full term of the Council there is stable leadership and therefore the opportunity to build long-term relationships with other Mayors, State and Federal Ministers and industry leaders for the benefit of the community

In response to those who favoured a chairperson rather than a mayor elected by the community:

- the role of the principal member of council is legislated under section 58(1) of the Local Government Act therefore it is not possible to have *“an independent and impartial person as a professional Chairperson”*

- the fact that candidates for the office of mayor cannot also stand for election as a councillor and therefore experience and expertise of unsuccessful candidates may be lost to council is outweighed due to
 - the Mayor having a casting vote in the event of a tied vote and in exercising a casting vote, the Mayor is accountable to all electors
 - where a vote is tied the Mayor's casting vote will always result in a decision
 - the Mayor's lack of a deliberative vote on a matter can facilitate impartial and robust discussion amongst councillors
- as at 2015-2016, 76% of Local Governments in South Australia have a Mayor elected as a representative of the whole Council area by all of the electors for a period of four years
- a proposal to have a Chairperson rather than a Mayor, cannot proceed until a poll has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 (11a-d) of the Local Government Act (1999), and the result of the poll favours the proposed change.

The retention of an elected mayor is consistent with the position supported by the majority of respondents during the first public consultation.

4.4.2. Number of Councillors

In respect to the question *"How many councillors (including the Mayor) are required to provide fair and adequate representation to the electors within the Naracoorte Lucindale Council"* Council notes the following:

- of the respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of the number of Elected Members (including the Mayor):
 - based on first preferences 9 people or 39.1% were in support of retaining 11 Elected Members, 5 people or 21.7% were in support of reducing the number to either 10 or 9 Elected Members
 - when taking into consideration the ranking of preferences the most preferred option is to reduce Elected Members to 10 closely followed by 9
 - 9 respondents first preference was to retain 11 elected members
 - 14 respondents first preference was to reduce elected members
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council's elector ratio of 1:525 is comparable to other Councils as shown in the table below but:
 - This council has the highest number of Elected Members at 11 (including the Mayor) with other comparable Councils having 9 or 10 Elected Members (including a Mayor or Chairperson).
 - This council has a higher number of Elected Members and therefore a lower representation quota compared to the Councils with the most similar number of electors, with Mallala at 5,692 (1:569) and Mid Murray at 6,136 (1:613) which both have 10 Elected Members. Naracoorte Lucindale has 5,777 electors (1:525).

COUNCIL ELECTED STRUCTURE & REPRESENTATION TABLE As at 29/02/2016	Note 1 Electors	Note 1 Total Members (inc. Mayor)	Note 1 Represent- -ation -quota*	Note 1 Mayor or chair- -person M/C	Note 1 Number of Wards	Note 1 Number of Area Council- -lors	Note 2 Aust Class. of LG (ACLG)
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	6575	10	657	M	0	0	RAL
Coorong	3795	9	421	C	3	0	RAL
Grant	5325	10	532	M	3	0	RAL
Mallala	5692	10	569	M	3	0	RAL
Mid Murray	6136	10	613	M	3	0	RAL
Naracoorte Lucindale	5777	11	525	M	0	0	RAL
Northern Areas	3417	9	379	C	4	0	RAL
Renmark Paringa	6299	9	699	M	0	0	RAL
Tatiara	4514	10	451	M	0	0	RAL
Wakefield Regional	4693	10	469	M	3	0	RAL

Council	Electors	Elector ratio	Total members
Mallala	5,692	1:569	10
Mid Murray	6,136	1:613	10
Naracoorte Lucindale	5,777	1:525	11

- While the elector ratio of Council (1:525) compares reasonably well with councils of a similar size within South Australia, it is relatively low when compared to the elector ratios of all other South Australian councils with higher numbers of Electors. These Councils' ratios range from 1:700 (Wattle Range) to 1:5,655 (Onkaparinga). Similarly, the ratio is also low when compared to the neighbouring West Wimmera Shire in Victoria with a ratio of 1:850.
- The population for the district is predicted to remain constant for the next 25 years, indicating that the number of electors is also likely to remain constant.

This could give rise to a case for a lesser number of Councillors.

4.4.3. Wards or Whole Council Area (no wards)

In respect to the question "Should Council retain its current structure or reinstate wards" Council notes the following:

- of the respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of wards or no wards 15 people or 68.2% supported the retention of the current "no ward" structure
- the no ward structure was introduced in 2000, two years after Council was formed in 1998 and has operated effectively during this time, as noted by one of the respondents in favour of a ward structure "I favour a Ward structure but a single ward has been working well in the case of the NLC and I therefore support the retention of the current structure".

- the current structure of “no wards”
 - is the optimum form of democracy as the electors vote for all of the vacant positions on Council and ensures the democratic principle of “one-vote-one-value” in that all Elected Members effectively represent all electors
 - allows electors to select their elected representatives from across the whole Council area, and not just their specific locality, therefore the most supported candidates from across the Council area will likely be elected
 - promotes the need for Elected Members to represent the views of all electors, and to make decisions in the best interests of the Council as a whole while also not preventing Elected Members from representing specific local interests
 - accommodates any number of councillors elected at large.

In response to those who favoured wards rather than no wards:

- Due to the large concentration of electors (72%) in the Naracoorte township the development of ward structure options is problematic. The large concentration of electors in the township results in difficulties in achieving a fair and balanced approach to communities of interest whilst at the same time achieving adequate and fair representation and wards with evenly balanced distribution of electors and therefore Elected Members.
- The two ward and three ward options that were presented, due to the varying levels of ward representation, could be perceived as imbalanced and a three ward option does not comply with the Act. Both examples result in a higher number of Councillors in the proposed Naracoorte Ward affording them greater say and influence on Council, even though the elector ratios of the proposed wards in both examples are similar. This creates the potential for undesirable township versus rural area divide and parochialism.
- Councillors should be free of parochial attitudes
- The lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced without wards, given that members of the community are able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward councillors
- The no ward structure
 - still affords opportunities for the small communities within the Council area to be directly represented on Council, if they are able to muster sufficient support for a candidate
 - automatically absorbs population fluctuations and there is no requirement for compliance with specified quota tolerance
 - Provides a greater opportunity for all interests to gain representation.

The retention of the no ward structure is consistent with the position supported by the majority of respondents during the first public consultation.

5. Representation Structure Proposal

5.1. Options considered in the representation options paper

Options considered in the representation options paper were:

- Council being represented by a Mayor or a Chairperson
- Council being represented by Area Councillors, Ward Councillors or a combination of both
- If the Council should be divided into no wards, two wards or three wards
- How many Council Members should represent the Community

5.2. Council's endorsed option and rationale

In respect of the responses received to the representation options paper:

- of the 22 respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of the principal member 16 people or 72.7% supported the retention a Mayor elected by the community
- of the 23 respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of the number of Elected Members (including the Mayor):
 - based on first preferences 9 people or 39.1% were in support of retaining 11 Elected Members and 14 people or 60.7% were in support of a reducing the number of Elected Members
 - when taking into consideration the ranking of preferences the most preferred option is to reduce Elected Members numbers to 10 closely followed by 9
 - there was no clear consensus from the community for a preferred number of Elected Members
- of the 22 respondents who provided feedback regarding the issue of wards or no wards 15 people or 68.2% supported the retention of the current "no ward" structure

Council noted the community feedback received in response to the Representation Options Paper and thanked the community for taking the time to participate in the consultation at its March 2017 meeting (resolution 223/17). Council has taken into account the submissions received.

Council recognises that twenty three responses appear to be a low response rate but is a significantly higher response than other Councils in the Limestone Coast region and Council's Representation Review conducted in 2009. Council's review in 2009 received no written or verbal responses.

The City of Mount Gambier, the Kingston District Council and the District Council of Grant have recently completed their first public consultations. During the

consultation period the City of Mount Gambier and the Kingston District Council both received one submission each and the District Council of Grant received no submissions.

Despite the number of submissions not being a significant number the submissions did provide Council with insight into the views of the community in regards to the key issues of the principal member; wards/no wards; and elected member numbers.

Having considered the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1999, the information and alternatives contained within the Representation Options Paper and the matters raised in the surveys and submissions provided by interested members of the community, Council proposes the following in-principle future composition and structure:

- The principal member of Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the community
- The future elected body of Council comprise 11 area councillors (including the Mayor) who will be elected by the community at council-wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area.
- The Council area retains its 'no ward' structure

5.3. How the proposal relates to principles and matters in the Act

How the proposal relates to the principles in section 26(1) of the Act and matters referred to in section 33 of the Act (if applicable).

5.3.1. Quota

Given that Council proposes to retain the existing "no wards" structure, the provisions of Section 33(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 which relate to ward quota tolerance limits do not apply.

5.3.2. Communities of Interest and Population

The Act speaks of reflecting communities of interest of an economic, social, regional or other kind.

As Naracoorte is the main service centre for the district the wider community has a strong interest in the functioning of and the services that are provided in the Naracoorte township. There is also a high level of participation in Council decision making by community members living outside of the Naracoorte township.

Due to the large concentration of electors (72%) in the Naracoorte township the development of communities of interest is problematic. The large concentration of electors in the township results in difficulties in achieving a fair and balanced approach to communities of interest.

The current no ward structure accommodates any number of councillors elected at large, as determined appropriate by Council.

5.3.3. Topography

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council primarily comprises open rural land, with the prominent physical feature being the main service centre of Naracoorte. As no ward boundaries are required, the topography of the Council area has no impact on the level and/or quality of representation.

5.3.4. Feasibility of Communication

Council is of the opinion that communication between Council and the community is enhanced without wards, given that members of the community are able to consult with any and/or all members of Council, rather than feel obliged to consult with their specific ward councillors.

5.3.5. Demographic Trends

The Estimated Resident Population shows that the population for the previous ten years has remained constant and the population for the district is predicted to remain constant for the next 25 years, indicating that the number of electors is also likely to remain constant.

5.3.6. Adequate and Fair Representation

For the reasons outlined at 4.4.2, Council is confident that its proposed future composition will continue to provide the optimum number of elected members required to manage the affairs of Council; provide an appropriate level of elector representation; maintain an appropriate diversity in the skill set, experience and expertise of the elected members; and present adequate lines of communication between the community and Council.

5.3.7. Section 26, Local Government Act 1999

Section 26(1) of the Act requires Council to have regard to a range of Principles such as:

- the desirability of avoiding significant divisions within the community
- proposed changes should, wherever practicable, benefit ratepayers
- Council having a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently
- Council should reflect communities of interest of an economic, recreational, social, regional or other kind, and be consistent with community structures, values, expectations and aspirations; and
- residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with Councils of a similar size and type should be avoided (at least in the longer term).

The in principle structure is considered to comply with the legislative provisions, as it will:

- incorporate sufficient elected members to undertake the various roles and responsibilities of Council
- avoids divisions within the community through the retention of the existing 'no wards' structure
- have little if any detrimental impact upon the ratepayers and/or existing communities of interest
- continue to provide adequate and fair representation to all electors and
- compares favourably with the composition and elector ratios of other Councils within South Australia which are of a similar size (in terms of elector numbers) and type.

6. Summary

Council must conduct a Representation Review between October 2016 and October 2017.

The review gives the Council and the community the opportunity to examine the present composition and structure of Council and if needed provides the opportunity to plan and implement changes that will better reflect the future requirements of the community.

The Council is the decision-making body on all matters of policy and strategic direction. The Naracoorte Lucindale Council currently consists of the Mayor and 10 Councillors, who are all elected from the whole community. The Council also appoints a Deputy Mayor, usually for a two year term. This structure has been in place since 2000.

This paper outlines the feedback received as a result of the first consultation which examined the community's support for a Mayor or a Chairperson, the appropriate number of Elected Members and a ward or no ward structure.

Council proposes the following in-principle future composition and structure:

- The principal member of Council continues to be a Mayor, elected by the community
- The future elected body of Council comprise 11 area councillors (including the Mayor) who will be elected by the community at council-wide elections to represent the whole of the Council area.
- The Council area retains its 'no ward' structure

You can have a say and make submissions on the Representation Review Report from 4 May 2017 until 9.00am, 29 May 2017, as follows:

- Provide a written submission to Council addressed to:

Representation Review

Naracoorte Lucindale Council
PO Box 555
Naracoorte SA 5271

or delivered to the Naracoorte Council office, DeGaris Place, Naracoorte or emailed to council@nlc.sa.gov.au

- download a Response Form at <http://yoursay.naracoortelucindale.sa.gov.au> or collect a response form at Council's Naracoorte and Lucindale offices
- complete a survey online at <http://yoursay.naracoortelucindale.sa.gov.au>

A public hearing will be held on 13 June 2017 at 7.30pm at DeGaris Place, Naracoorte to give people the opportunity to be heard by Council in relation to their submission or to present to Council.

Further information regarding the elector representation review can be obtained by contacting Sally Klose, Manager Governance and Community Development, on telephone 8760 1100 or by emailing council@nlc.sa.gov.au